American Community Survey (ACS): Questions on the Form and Why We Ask

Industry and Occupation

4	For whom did this person work? If now on active duty in the Armed Forces, mark (X) this box → and print the branch of the Armed Forces. Name of company, business, or other employer
43	What kind of business or industry was this? Describe the activity at the location where employed. (For example: hospital, newspaper publishing, mail order house, auto engine manufacturing, bank)
49	Is this mainly – Mark (X) ONE box.
	manufacturing?
	wholesale trade?
	retail trade?
T	other (agriculture, construction, service, government, etc.)?

4	•	What kind of work was this person doing? (For example: registered nurse, personnel manager, supervisor of order department, secretary, accountant)
4		What were this person's most important activities or duties? (For example: patient care, directing hiring policies, supervising order clerks, typing and filing, reconciling financial records)

Source: ACS-1(2013)KFI

Why We Ask:

We ask questions about industry and occupation to understand more about the labor force. These statistics are used to plan and evaluate education, employment, career development and job training programs, and to measure compliance with antidiscrimination policies.

History:

The first pprofession, occupation, or trade question was asked in the Census of 1850. These questions were included when the ACS was implemented nationwide in 2005.

Federal Uses:

Agencies such as the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Labor, and U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission use these statistics to analyze cases of employment discrimination and plan programs and policies. Many agencies also use these statistics to add detail to their information. For example, the U.S. Department of Transportation uses these estimates to enhance commuting data, and public health agencies use them to analyze connections between professions and serious health conditions.

State and County Uses:

States and counties use these statistics to understand the labor force in their communities. These governments may collaborate with strong sectors and professions in efforts to encourage economic growth, and plan new job training opportunities for people in declining professions.

Private Sector Uses:

Businesses use these statistics to develop anti-discrimination policies, and to analyze a community's workforce when planning new ventures. Professional groups use these statistics to understand and advocate for policies that benefit their members.

All questions on the ACS are required to manage and evaluate a wide range of federal, tribal, state, and local programs, but may also be useful for research, education, journalism, advocacy, business, and many other uses. This series explains the current uses of each question

